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DAILY MANNA

FOR

CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS.

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them."
Jer. xv. 16.

BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA ·

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NOTE.

The design of this little compilation will be sufficiently obvious to every one who is accustomed to live, not "by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

The brief analysis which is given of each passage of Scripture, is intended, by suggesting the appropriate topics, and giving them method, to facilitate profitable reflection. These hints contribute nothing to the sweetness of that which a rectified taste has long since declared to be "sweeter than honey and the honey-comb;" nor do they add any thing to the nutritive qualities of what God has made as nutritious as it is palatable. But it is supposed that they may be of some service to those who are not yet "skilful in the word of righteousness," and whose spiritual faculties are not "exercised," "by reason of use," in the divine art of extracting the virtues of the "word of life."

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If any of Zion's Pilgrims, as they pass onward through this desert to the heavenly Canaan, shall be refreshed and strengthened by what is here supplied, the object of the compiler will be attained, and his labour abundantly rewarded.

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DAILY MANNA.

JANUARY.

1. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Ps. xc. 12.

1. It is very important that we should apply our hearts unto wisdom.—2. That we may do this effectually, we must be able rightly to number our days.—3. That we may learn this art, we need a Divine Teacher.—4. That we may enjoy his instructions, we must with a docile spirit seek them.

Teach me the measure of my days,
Thou Maker of my frame;
I would survey life's narrow space,
And learn how frail I am.

---

2. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. Luke xvii. 5.

1. Faith is capable of increase.—2. It is very desirable that it should be increased.—3. It is the prerogative of Christ, as the "Author and Finisher of our faith," to increase it.—4. It is therefore suitable that application should be made to him for this purpose.

Oh for a strong, a lasting faith,
To credit what the Almighty saith—
To embrace the message of his Son,
And call the joys of heaven our own.

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3. Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?
Luke xxiv. 32.

1. The Scriptures need to be opened.—2. It is a great privilege to have them opened by Christ.—3. This privilege we may enjoy by familiar intimacy with him.—4. The result is a burning heart.

From thy house when we return,
Let our hearts within us burn;
Then, at evening, we may say,
"We have walk'd with Christ to-day."

---

4. He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 1 Cor. vi. 17.

1. The true believer is united to Christ.—2. Where this union subsists, one spirit pervades both, so that the sympathy is complete.

Since Christ and we are one,
Why should we doubt or fear?
If he in heaven hath fix'd his throne,
He 'll fix his members there.

---

5. Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. Matt. xxv. 13.

1. The Son of man will come to raise the dead and to judge the world.—2. We know not the time when he will come.—3. It is incumbent on us, therefore, to watch, that he may not take us by surprise.

Watch! 'tis your Lord's command;
And while we speak, he 's near;
Mark every signal of his hand,
And ready all appear.

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6. Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation. Matt. xxvi. 41.

1. We are constantly exposed to temptation.—2. Temptation is to be deprecated.—3. Watchfulness and prayer are our best preservatives.

The Saviour bids us watch and pray;
Maintain a warrior's strife;
Help, Lord, to hear thy voice to-day:
Obedience is our life.

---

7. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Ps lxi. 2.

1. Christ is a Rock of Refuge to his people.—2. He is higher than they are, and therefore able to protect them.—3. That they may enjoy his protection, they must take shelter in him.—4. That they may do this, it is necessary that they should pray to be led to him.

Oh lead me to the Rock
That's high above my head,
And make the covert of thy wings
My shelter and my shade.

---

8. I entreated thy favour with my whole heart. Ps. cxix. 58.

1. We need God's favour.—2. It is worth seeking.—3. That we may enjoy it, we must ask for it with the whole heart.

With my whole heart I've sought thy face;
Oh never let me stray
From thy commands, O God of grace,
Nor tread the sinner's way.

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9. O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. Jer. iv. 14.

1. Wickedness is defiling.—2. The seat of moral defilement is the heart.—3. Provision is made, through the atonement of Christ, for the removal of this defilement from the heart.—4. Its removal is indispensable to salvation.

While at thy cross I lie,
O Lord, thy grace bestow;
Do thou thy cleansing blood apply,
And make me white as snow.

---

10. Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. Ps. lxvi. 16.

1. God has done much for the soul of the believer. —2. The believer is impelled, by a feeling of gratitude, to declare this to the honour of God.—3. Those who fear God delight to hear such declarations.

My lips and cheerful heart prepare
To make his mercies known;
Come, ye who fear my God, and hear
The wonders he has done.

---

11. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Rom. viii. 28.

1. God has a purpose with reference to his people. —2. Pursuant to this purpose, his people are called. —3. As the result of this calling, they love God.— 4. For the good of such all things work together.

Since all that I meet shall work for my good,
The bitter is sweet, the medicine is food.

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12. Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. 1 Peter iii. 15.

1. The Christian is the subject of hope.—2. He has a reason for his hope.—3. He will be likely to be questioned as to that reason.—4. He should be ready to give that reason at all times, to all persons, and in the proper manner.

Then will I tell to sinners round,
What a dear Saviour I have found;
I'll point to his redeeming blood,
And say, "Behold the way to God."

---

13. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Tit. ii. 13.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ will appear the second time.—2. His appearing will be glorious.—3. His appearing is to Christians an object of hope.—4. This hope is in all respects blessed.

Lo! he cometh:—countless trumpets
Wake to life the slumbering dead;
Mid ten thousand saints and angels,
See their great exalted Head:
Hallelujah!
Welcome, welcome, Son of God!

---

14. That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. Heb. vi. 18.

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1. The promise and the oath of God are immutable things.—2. These immutable things supply an ample basis for strong consolation.—3. This consolation is designed for such as accept the guaranty by making Christ their refuge.

The gospel bears my spirit up;
A faithful and unchanging God
Lays the foundation for my hope,
In oaths, and promises, and blood.

---

15. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me. John. xiv. 6.

1. Out of Christ as the way, there is nothing but wandering.—2. Out of Christ as the truth, there is nothing but error.—3. Out of Christ as the life, there is nothing but death.—4. Christ is therefore the true way to life.

Thou art the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us to know that way,
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Which lead to endless day.

---

16. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else. Isa. xlv. 22.

1. All mankind are lost.—2. God alone can save.—3. He is disposed to save.—4. Those who would be saved must look to him.—5. All are invited to look, and be saved.

Ye dying souls that sit
In darkness and distress,
Look from the borders of the pit
To his recovering grace.

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17. Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom. Job xxxiii. 24.

1. The gracious order.—2. The gracious reason.

Christ hath the ransom paid;
The glorious work is done;
On him our help is laid,
By him our victory won.

---

18. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Rev. xxii. 17.

1. The blessing offered.—2. The gratuitousness of the offer.—3. The extent of the offer.

Yes, whosoever will,
Oh, let him hither come,
And freely drink the stream of life;
'Tis Jesus bids him come.

---

19. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Ps. li. 12.

1. A desirable result anticipated; in which is recognised an end to which the believer should direct his efforts.—2. An important service promised; in which are recognised the means adapted to the end.—3. A two-fold favour solicited; in which an intelligent view is taken of the qualifications indispensable to the service promised.

Salvation's joy do thou restore,
And hold me that I fall no more;
Then sinners will I teach thy ways,
And they shall find converting grace.

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20. Open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. Ps. li. 15.

1. Sin closes the believer's lips.—2. God only can open such lips.—3. When he opens them, they utter his praise.

Oh, may thy love inspire my tongue!
Salvation shall be all my song;
And all my powers shall join to bless
The Lord, my strength and righteousness.

---

21. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Ps. cxxvi. 6.

1. The duty to be performed.—2. The temper of mind suited to its proper performance.—3. The certain results.

Let those who sow in sadness, wait
Till the fair harvest come;
They shall confess their sheaves are great,
And shout the blessings home.

---

22. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. Heb. iv. 1.

1. A promise stated.—2. A danger suggested.—3. A duty inculcated.

Come, let us hear his voice to-day,
The counsels of his love obey;
Nor let our hardened hearts renew
The sins and plagues that Israel knew.

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23. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Consider your ways. Hag. i. 5.

1. Are they directed to a right end?—2. Are they regulated by a right rule?—3. Are they influenced by right motives?

Through all the windings of my heart,
My search let heavenly wisdom guide,
And still its radiant beams impart
Till all be known and purified.

---

24. Thy word have I hid in mine heart. Ps. cxix. 11.

1. As the light of the faculties.—2. As the purifier of the affections.—3. As the preservative from corruption.—4. As the repellant of temptation.—5. As the weapon of warfare.—6. As the treasure of comfort.—7. As the antidote of evil.

Thy word I've hid within my heart,
To keep my conscience clean,
And be an everlasting guard
From every rising sin.

---

25. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Ps. cxix. 4, 5.

1. Duty recognised.—2. Dependence felt.—3. Direction sought.

Oh that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep his statues still!
Oh that my God would grant me grace
To know and do his will!

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26. Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
Acts. xiv. 22.

1. The way to heaven lies through much tribulation.—2. They who would enter heaven must, from the necessity of the case, proceed by that way.—3. Progress in that way to the attainment of the object, requires continuance in the faith.—4. That we may persevere, under such circumstances, our souls need to be encouraged and confirmed.—5. For our encouragement and confirmation, we are assured that by perseverance we shall get through all the tribulation, and find beyond it the kingdom of God.

Why should I shrink at pain and woe?
Or feel at death dismay?
I've Canaan's goodly land in view,
And realms of endless day.

---

27. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.
3 John 8.

1. The gospel is a system of truth.—2. The truth needs helpers.—3. Christians are the proper helpers.—4. Ways in which they may be helpers.—5. In helping the truth they should affectionately co-operate.—6. To this service they are bound by moral obligation.

Come let us, with a grateful heart,
In the blest labour share a part;
Our prayers and offerings gladly bring
To aid the triumphs of our King.

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28. Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?
1 Chron. xxix. 5.

1. Peculiar exigencies sometimes demand of us special sacrifices in the service of God.—2. Every such service should be performed by a special act of consecration.—3. This should be done voluntarily, and without delay.

All that I am, and all I have,
Shall be for ever thine;
Whate'er my duty bids me give,
My cheerful hands resign.

---

29. Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. Ps. lxxxi. 10.

1. We need great blessings.—2. God is able to bestow great blessings.—3. He has promised great blessings.—4. We may ask for great blessings.

The humble suppliant cannot fail
To have his wants supplied,
Since He for sinners intercedes
Who once for sinners died.

---

30. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isa. lv. 7.

1. The sinner's duty.—2. The Lord's promise.

The man who turns to God shall live,
Through his abounding grace;
His mercy will the guilt forgive
Of those who seek his face.

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31. I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. John xvii. 4.

1. The execution of a very important work was intrusted to the Saviour.—2. For that work he was every way qualified.—3. He perfectly finished that work.—4. What an indignity is put upon him when we attempt to add to his work!

No blood of goats nor heifers slain
For sin could e'er atone;
The blood of Christ shall still remain
Sufficient and alone.

FEBRUARY.

1. The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Prov. iv. 18.

1. The path of the Christian is a path of light.—2. It is a path of increasing light.—3. It terminates in perfect day.

Just such is the Christian; his course he begins,
Like the sun in a mist, while he mourns for his sins,
And melts into tears; then he breaks out and shines,
And travels his heavenly way:
But when he comes nearer to finish his race,
Like a fine setting sun, he looks richer in grace,
And gives a sure hope, at the end of his days,
Of rising in brighter array.

---

2. He will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. Ps. lxxxv. 8.

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1. How encouraging the assurance.—2. How reasonable the caution.

We wait to hear what God will say;
He'll speak, and give his people peace;
But let them go no more astray,
Lest his returning wrath increase.

---

3. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Heb. iv. 15.

1. We have a glorious High Priest.—2. His deep experience.—3. His absolute innocence.—4. His ability to sympathize.

Touched with a sympathy within,
He knows our feeble frame;
He knows what sore temptations mean,
For he has felt the same.

---

4. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. iv. 16.

1. When we are tempted, we especially need help.—2. All the help we need is obtainable at the throne of grace.—3. As we have such an High Priest, we may with confidence apply for all needed assistance.

Come boldly to the throne of grace,
And all our trials name;
In every point our Lord will trace
That he endured the same.

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5. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. 2 Cor. ix. 15.

1. The Donor.—2. The Donation.—3. The receivers.—4. Such a Gift, from such a source, to such persons, calls for the purest and warmest gratitude.

Jesus, thou glorious gift of God,
To sinners weary and distress'd;
The first of all his gifts bestow'd,
And certain pledge of all the rest.

---

6. And it came to pass, that while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. Luke xxiv. 15.

1. Those who love the Saviour delight to converse respecting him.—2. The way to have him for our companion is to make him our theme.

We'll talk of all he did and said,
And suffer'd for us here below;
The path he mark'd for us to tread,
And what he's doing for us now.

---

7. And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Gen. vii. 1.

1. An instance of extraordinary piety.—2. Such piety attracts the Divine observation.—3. It secures for its possessor peculiar privileges.

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then
Have nothing else to fear;
Make you his service your delight,
He'll make your wants his care.

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8. Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. Isa. xlviii. 10.

1. Man is impure in nature.—2. That he may be saved, it is necessary that he should be purified.—3. The design of God's gracious choice of his people is to make them pure.—4. To this end he subjects them to affliction.

In the furnace God may prove thee,
Thence to bring thee forth more bright,
But can never cease to love thee:
Thou art precious in his sight.

---

9. Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. Ps. xvii. 5.

1. The paths in which the believer prefers to walk.—2. The danger that he apprehends and deprecates.—3. His sense of dependence.—4. His prayer for support.

Their steadfast feet shall never fall,
Whom he designs to keep;
His ear attends their humble call,
His eyes can never sleep.

---

10. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. 1 Sam. i. 28.

1. Religious engagements are sometimes made without a due apprehension of what their fulfilment will cost us.—2. The consistent believer will nevertheless regard them as binding, and will promptly and cheerfully fulfil them.—3. Such fidelity will not lose its reward.

Yet if I might make some reserve,
And duty did not call,
I love my God with zeal so great,
That I should give him all.

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11. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God. Heb. xii. 15.

1. The grace of God is a most desirable good.—2. It is a good that may be secured.—3. There is great danger that we may fail of it.—4. The exigency requires diligent precaution.

O gracious God, in whom I live,
My feeble efforts aid;
Help me to watch, and pray, and strive,
Though trembling and afraid.

---

12. Buy the truth, and sell it not. Prov xxiii. 23.

1. Buy it at any price, for it is indispensable.—2. Sell it at no price, for it has no equivalent.

This is the field where hidden lies
The pearl of price unknown;
That merchant is divinely wise
Who makes this pearl his own.

---

13. Thine arrows are sharp in the hearts of the King's enemies, whereby the people fall under thee. Ps. xlv. 5.

1. The King of the universe has enemies.—2. He requires of them submission.—3. For the purpose of reducing them to submission, he has sent forth his Son as a Conqueror.—4. In executing his commission, the Son employs effective weapons.—5. These weapons are directed to the heart.—6. The happy result.

How deep the wounds thine arrows give!
They pierce the hardest heart;
Thy smiles of grace the slain revive,
And joys succeeds to smart.

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14. Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Acts ix. 6.

1. The truly converted man is disposed to do something.—2. He is anxious only to know what to do.—3. He recognises Christ's right to prescribe his duty.—4. He adopts the proper course to ascertain his Master's will.

Mine eyes are ever unto thee,
That I may all my duty see;
Do thou thy counsel clearly show,
For, Lord, I know not what to do.

---

15. Exhort one another daily, while it is called To-day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Heb. iii. 13.

1. Sin is deceitful.—2. By its deceitfulness it has a hardening influence.—3. Such an effect is much to be deprecated.—4. Christians are exposed to this danger.—5. An important means of avoiding it.

Sin has a thousand treacherous arts
To practise on the mind;
With flattering looks she tempts our hearts,
But leaves a sting behind.

---

16. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. Heb. ii. 10.

1. It is the purpose of God to save many souls. 2. That he might do this, it was necessary that he should provide a suitable Saviour.—3. The qualification of the Saviour for such a service depended essentially upon his sufferings.

The pangs of our expiring Lord,
The honours of thy law restored;
His sorrows made thy justice known,
And paid for follies not his own.

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17. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2 Cor. viii. 9.

1. The wealth of Christ before his incarnation.—2. The sacrifice which he voluntarily made.—3. The benevolent design of that sacrifice.—4. The wealth which we thence derive.—5. The influence which a knowledge of these facts should have upon us.

And did the Holy and the Just,
The Sovereign of the skies,
Stoop down to wretchedness and dust,
That guilty man might rise?

---

18. My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. Ps. lxii. 5.

1. God has made promises to his people.—2. These promises furnish them with a valid basis of expectation.—3. Under the influence of this expectation they wait.—4. Expecting and waiting should not be dissociated.

My spirit looks to God alone;
My rock and refuge is his throne;
In all my fears, in all my straits,
My soul on his salvation waits.

---

19. There is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. Ps. cxxx. 4.

1. God forgives sin.—2. He does it in a way to promote the interests of practical holiness

O Lord, 't is thine to spare and save,
With mercy souls to win;
For mercy binds the grateful heart,
And makes it fear to sin.

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20. God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. Acts. iii. 26.

1. It is a blessing to be turned away from our iniquities.—2. To bestow this blessing is a design of Christ's mission.—3. It is a blessing peculiar to Christianity.

Great is his love, and large his grace,
Through the redemption of his Son;
He turns our feet from sinful ways,
And pardons what our hands have done.

---

21. We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 2 Cor. v. 20.

1. Sinners are naturally unreconciled to God.—2. Christ is the Mediator through whom they may become reconciled.—3. The terms of reconciliation are distinctly announced.—It is important that they should be reconciled.—5. The ministers of Christ are authorized to urge them to be reconciled.

Bow to the sceptre of his word,
Renouncing every sin;
Submit to him, your sovereign Lord,
And learn his will Divine.

---

22. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. Mal. iii. 18.

1. There is a difference between the righteous and the wicked.—2. This difference is not always obvious in the present life.—3. A day is approaching when this difference will be made apparent.

When thou, my righteous Judge, shalt come
To take thy ransom'd people home,
Shall I among them stand?

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23. The faithful and true witness. Rev. iii. 14.

1. Christ is a witness.—2. His testimony is credible.

Thou art the Truth; thy word alone
True wisdom can impart;
Thou, only, canst instruct the mind,
And purify the heart.

---

24. Immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood. Gal. i. 16.

1. Clear perception of duty,—2. Spirit of obedience.—3. Independent decision.—4. Promptitude of action.

The Master whom you serve
Will needful strength bestow;
Depending on his promised aid,
With sacred courage go.

---

25. That Rock was Christ. 1 Cor. x. 4.

1. A spiritual Rock.—2. A smitten Rock.—3. A Rock sending forth streams that are refreshing, sufficient and ever present.

Let waters from the smitten Rock
Refresh each member of thy flock;
And let the streams which from him flow
Attend us all the desert through.

---

26. And when he thought thereon, he wept. Mark xiv. 72.

1. Genuine repentance is the result of a conviction of guilt.—2. Conviction of guilt is the result of reflection.—3. The more we reflect upon the nature and tendencies of sin, the more occasion shall we see for repentance.

Lord, we have long abused thy love,
Too long indulged our sin;
Our aching hearts now bleed to see
What rebels we have been.

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27. Faint, yet pursuing. Judges viii. 4.

1. The Christian pilgrim has much to dishearten and depress.—2. He has more to animate and encourage.—3. Therefore he advances in his heavenward journey.

Oh faint not, Christian, for thy sighs
Are heard before His throne;
The race must come before the prize,
The cross before the crown.

---

28. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. iii. 14.

1. Our calling, as Christians, has reference to high attainments in piety.—2. Those attainments cannot be reached without vigorous exertion.—3. Success will be richly rewarded.

'Tis God's all-animating voice
That calls thee from on high;
'Tis his own hand presents the prize
To thine uplifted eye.

[**29.**] Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Heb. xii. 3.

1. An evil to be guarded against.—2. An example to be studied.

In duties and in sufferings too,
Thy path, my Lord, I'd trace;
As thou hast done, so would I do,
Depending on thy grace.

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MARCH.

1. The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 1 Peter iv. 7.

1. A three-fold duty recommended.—2. The mutual relation of these three parts, binding them together.—3. The reason urged to enforce a faithful performance.

Then, pilgrim, let thy joys and fears
On time no longer lean;
But henceforth all thy hopes and fears
From earth's affections wean.

---

2. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. Luke i. 6.

1. The piety of this aged couple was sincere.—2. It was practical.—3. It was impartial.—4. It was irreproachable.—5. It was mutual.—6. How pure and elevated must have been their domestic happiness.

How blest the sacred tie that binds
In sweet communion, kindred minds!
How swift the heavenly course they run,
Whose hearts, whose faith, whose hopes are one!

---

3. Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me. Luke xxii. 28, 29.

1. A proof of genuine friendship.—2. An ample reward of such fidelity.

My Friend art thou where'er I go,
The object of my love,
My kind Protector here below,
And my reward above.

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4. And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. Isa. xxv. 6.

1. The predicted entertainment.—2. The Provider of it.—3. The place where it was to be made.—4. The richness of the provision.—5. The extent of its design.

Eternal Wisdom has prepared
A soul-reviving feast,
And bids your longing appetites
The rich provision taste.

---

5. Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter i. 13.

1. There is to be a revelation of Jesus Christ.—2. The Christian's prospect, as connected with that event.—3. His duty thence resulting.

Oh happy servant he,
In such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
And be with honour crown'd.

---

6. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.
Heb. vi. 19.

1. The character of the anchor.—2. The excellence of the anchor-ground.—3. The consequent security of the soul.

Amidst temptations sharp and long,
My soul to this dear refuge flies;
Hope is my anchor, firm and strong,
While tempests blow and billows rise.

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7. Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity? Micah vii. 18.

1. So benevolently.—2. So righteously.—3. So wisely.—4. So impartially.—5. So readily.—6. So perfectly.

Who is a pardoning God like thee?
Or who has grace so rich and free?

---

8. But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, fear not: for I have redeemed thee I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. Isa. xliii. 1.

1. God claims the saints as peculiarly his own.—2. His claim has a three-fold validity.—3. Having done so much to establish his right to them, they have no occasion to fear.

Thine, wholly thine, oh let us be;
Our sacrifice receive;
Made, and preserved, and saved by thee,
To thee ourselves we give.

---

9. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isa. xliii. 2.

1. Evils presupposed.—2. Preservation assured.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The billows shall never thy soul overflow;
When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.

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10. Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. Mark ix. 24.

1. Faith declared.—2. Imperfection confessed.—3. Succour implored.

My soul obeys th' almighty call,
And runs to this relief;
I would believe thy promise, Lord;
Oh, help mine unbelief.

---

11. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. John iii. 35.

1. Then must the Saviour be amiable and trustworthy.—2. Then has he resources adequate to our necessities.—3. Then may he properly require us to come to him for all that we need.—4. Then must our application for supplies be made to him.

Sinners, believe the Saviour's word;
Trust in his mighty name and live;
A thousand joys his lips afford,
His hands a thousand blessings give.

---

12. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. xi. 28.

1. The invited.—2. The invitation.—3. The inducement.

Come hither, all ye weary souls,
Ye heavy-laden sinners come;
I'll give you rest from all your toils,
And raise you to my heavenly home.

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13. And his rest shall be glorious.
Isa. xi. 10.

1. In its nature.—2. In its completeness.—3. In its perpetuity.

Jerusalem! my glorious home!
My soul still pants for thee;
Then shall my labours have an end,
When I thy joys shall see.

---

14. For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified. John xvii. 19.

1. The benevolence of the design.—2. The expensiveness of the means.

Oh, for this love let rocks and hills
Their lasting silence break,
And all harmonious human tongues
The Saviour's praises speak.

---

15. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deut. xxxiii. 27.

1. God is not only the protector, but also the protection of the exposed.—2. He is not only the supporter, but also the support of the feeble.—3. His protection and support are endless.

This God is the God we adore,
Our faithful unchangeable Friend,
Whose love is as large as his power,
And neither knows measure nor end.

---

16. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever. Heb. xiii. 8.

1. In his personal character.—2. In his official relations.

Then give, O Lord, or take away,
I'll bless thy sacred name:
Jesus to day, and yesterday,
And ever is the same.

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17. A partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. 1 Peter v. 1.

1. The glory that awaits the Christian.—2. This glory is for future development.—3. It admits, in a degree, of present participation.

The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Or walk the golden streets.

---

18. I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness. Ps. xvii. 15.

1. Perfect satisfaction is essential to perfect happiness.—2. The believer cannot be perfectly satisfied until he is perfectly conformed to Christ.—3. This perfect conformity will not be till he awakes at the resurrection of the just.

My flesh shall slumber in the ground
Till the last trumpet's joyful sound;
Then burst the chains with sweet surprise,
And in my Saviour's image rise.

---

19. When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. Job xxiii. 10.

1. Unharmed by the process.—2. Proved to be genuine.—3. Purified of evil.—4. Prepared for use.

Trials make the promise sweet;
Trials give new life to prayer;
Trials bring me to his feet,—
Lay me low, and keep me there.

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20. Let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Gal. vi. 9.

1. Our proper business is well-doing.—2. In this we are liable to become weary.—3. Encouragements to perseverance.

Thou canst not toil in vain;
Cold, heat, and moist, and dry
Shall foster and mature the grain
For garners in the sky.

---

21. The fashion of this world passeth away. 1 Cor. vii. 31.

1. How unwise, then, to be concerned about mere worldly good, that is mutable, illusory, and temporary.—2. How important that we should secure an interest where every thing is stable, real, and enduring.

How vain is all beneath the skies!
How transient every earthly bliss!
How slender all the fondest ties
That bind us to a world like this.

---

22. What must I do to be saved?—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts xvi. 30, 31.

1. A most important question.—2. The only true answer.

Cast thy guilty soul on him,
He is mighty to redeem;
At his feet thy burden lay;
He will wash thy sins away.

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23. What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark viii. 36.

1. Estimate the value of that which he gains.—2. Estimate the value of that which he loses.—3. Compare the estimates, and answer the question.

The human soul! What wealth shall dare
With its most priceless worth to vie?
Suns, systems, worlds, how mean they are,
Compared with souls, that cannot die!

---

24. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Ps. ii. 8.

1. The greatness of the proffered donation.—2. The simplicity of the prescribed condition.—3. Have we any reason to suppose either that Christ will fail to ask, or that the Father will fail to give?

Ask, and receive thy full demands,
Thine shall the heathen be;
The utmost limits of the lands
Shall be possess'd by thee.

---

25. Ye are Christ's. 1 Cor. iii. 23.

1. Then are ye not your own.—2. Then is Christ entitled to your service.—3. Then has he a right to dispose of you.—4. Then will he take care of you.

Dear Saviour, we are thine
By everlasting bands;
Our hearts, our souls we would resign
Entirely to thy hands.

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26. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished; and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. John xix. 30.

1. The last words.—2. The last act.

"'Tis finish'd;" now the ransom's paid;
"Receive my soul," he cries;
Behold, he bows his sacred head;
He bows his head and dies.

---

27. Who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame. Heb. xii. 2.

1. The Saviour was the subject of immense sufferings.—2. A benevolent regard to the results of his mission enabled him patiently to endure the whole.

This was compassion like a God,
That when the Saviour knew
The price of pardon was his blood,
His pity ne'er withdrew.

---

28. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 1 John iii. 2.

1. The Christian's relationship.—2. His condition.—3. His prospects.

It doth not yet appear
How great we must be made;
But when we see our Saviour here,
We shall be like our Head.

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29. There is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Prov. xviii. 24.

1. His friendship is more disinterested.—2. It makes greater sacrifices.—3. It forgives more.—4. It lasts longer.

A Friend there is—your voices join,
Ye saints, to praise his name—
Whose truth and kindness are divine,
Whose love's a constant flame.

---

30. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness? 2 Pet. iii. 11.

1. The amazing truth.—2. The rational inference.

Be this my one great business here,
With serious industry and fear,
Eternal bliss t' insure—
Thine utmost counsel to fulfil,
And suffer all thy righteous will,
And to the end endure.

---

31. Unto them that look for him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Heb. ix. 28.

1. The becoming posture.—2. The encouraging prospect.

When shall the day, O Lord, appear;
When shall I mount to dwell above,
And stand and bow before thee there,
And view thy face and sing thy love?

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APRIL.

1. God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John iii. 16.

1. The character of the world which God loved.—2. The character of his love as developed in action.

Inscribed upon the cross we see,
In glowing letters, "God is love;"
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above.

---

2. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Rom. x. 4.

1. The end contemplated by the law of God is perfect righteousness.—2. Christ answers that end in behalf of every believer.

For ever here I rest my cause;
In faith I make this plea;
Christ hath obeyed thy righteous laws;
Christ hath expired for me.

---

3. Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. Matt. xxv. 21.

1. The faithful Christian will receive the commendation of his Judge.—2. He will receive a rich reward.

Servant of God, well done;
Rest from thy loved employ!
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy master's joy.

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4. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Matt. xxviii. 18.

1. Then is he able to accomplish all his purposes. —2. Then is he able to save all who trust him.— 3. Then is he able to punish all who reject him.

Teach all the nations my commands;
I'm with you till the world shall end;
All power is trusted in my hands;
I can destroy, and I defend.

---

5. The word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Heb. iv. 2.

1. The great end for which the word is preached, is the profit of the hearers.—2. The word cannot be profitable to them unless they believe it.

Go preach my gospel, saith the Lord;
Bid the whole earth my grace receive;
He shall be saved who trusts my word,
And he condemn'd who won't believe.

---

6. He that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.
1 Pet. iii. 10.

1. The duty required.—2. The blessing annexed.

The tongue, that most unruly power,
Requires a strong restraint;
We must be watchful every hour,
And pray, but never faint.

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7. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. John vii. 17.

1. It is very important that we should know the truth as God has revealed it.—2. A disposition to obey the truth, is essential to the acquisition of this knowledge.

My gracious God, how plain
Are thy directions given!
Oh may I never read in vain,
But find the path to heaven.

---

8. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. Ps. cxvi. 2.

1. An obligation gratefully recognised.—2. A duty solemnly pledged.

I love the Lord; he heard my cries,
And pitied every groan:
Long as I live, when troubles rise,
I'll hasten to his throne.

---

9. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. Col. iii. 2.

1. Because of their superior dignity.—2. Because they are more satisfying.—3. Because they are more enduring.

Then, man, be wise; thy constant care
To purer joys be given;
Nor let delusive objects share
The place of bliss and heaven.

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10. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul. Lam. iii. 24.

1. An adequate portion.—2. An unfailing portion.—3. A gracious portion.

God is the treasure of my soul,
The source of lasting joy—
A joy which want shall not impair,
Nor death itself destroy.

---

11. The Lord's portion is his people. Deut. xxxii. 9.

1. By absolute right.—2. By gracious preference.

Oh come and make me thine,
A sinner saved by grace;
Then shall I sing, with loudest strains,
In heaven thy dwelling-place.

---

12. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Matt. vi. 10.

1. As spontaneously.—2. As exclusively.—3. As uniformly.—4. As universally.

Lord, may thy perfect will
On earth be done in love,
As saints and seraphim fulfil
Thy perfect law of love.

---

13. Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? Luke ii. 49.

1. Our heavenly Father has assigned to each of us a portion of his business.—2. That we may execute it well, we should commence it early in life.

To God thy youthful heart submit,
For him thy powers employ;
Make him thy fear, thy love, thy hope,
Thy portion and thy joy.

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14. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Ps. xxxvii. 3.

1. A double duty enjoined.—2. A double blessing promised.

Then let me make the Lord my trust,
And practise all that's good;
So shall I dwell among the just,
And he'll provide me food.

---

15. The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. 1 Sam. xvii. 37.

1. A grateful recollection of past deliverances.—2. A strengthened confidence in Divine protection.

Why, oh my soul, oh why depress'd,
And whence thine anxious fears?
Let former favours fix thy trust,
And check thy rising tears.

---

16. The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all. Prov. xxii. 2.

1. They have a common origin.—2. They have a common nature.—3. They are subject to common infirmities.—4. A common destiny awaits them.—5. Let them not despise each other.

Love is the golden chain that binds
The happy souls above;
And he's an heir of heaven that finds
His bosom glow with love.

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17. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit. John iii. 8.

1. The moral change wrought in the regeneration of the soul by the Holy Spirit, is mysteriously effected.—2. The mysteriousness of the process does not in the least weaken the proof of the reality of the change.

The Spirit, like some heavenly wind,
  Breathes on the sons of flesh,
Creates anew the carnal mind,
  And forms the man afresh.

---

18. What think ye of Christ?
Matt. xxii. 42.

1. As we think of Christ, so shall we treat him.—2. As we think of Christ, so will be our religious system.

What think ye of Christ, is the test
  To try both your state and your scheme;
You cannot be right in the rest,
  Unless you think rightly of him.

---

19. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. Ps. lvi. 3.

1. A common evil.—2. An unfailing antidote.—3. A judicious resolution.

In God most holy, just and true,
  Will I repose my trust;
Nor will I fear what flesh can do,
  The offspring of the dust.

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20. As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Ps. lv. 16.

1. A rational determination.—2. Authorized confidence.

Affliction is a stormy deep,
Where wave succeeds to wave;
Though o'er my head the billows roll,
I know the Lord can save.

---

21. Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee. Ps. lv. 22.

1. A benevolent injunction.—2. A comforting assurance.

Still on the Lord thy burden roll,
Nor let a care remain;
His mighty arm shall bear thy soul,
And all thy griefs sustain.

---

22. And he is the head of the body, the church. Col. i. 18.

1. As head of the church, Christ is the source of vitality.—2. The seat of intelligence.—3. The bond of union.—4. The centre of authority.

The saints on earth, and all the dead,
But one communion make;
All join in Christ, their living head,
And of his grace partake.

---

23. How can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred? Esther viii. 6.

1. Faith apprehending their doom.—2. Love deprecating it.

How can we see them tread the path
That leads to endless death,
Thus adding to thy fearful wrath,
With every moment's breath?

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24. I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! Luke xii. 50.

1. Christ foresaw his sufferings.—2. He estimated their extent.—3. He recognised their necessity.—4. He longed for their accomplishment.

Deep in our hearts let us record
The deeper sorrows of our Lord:
Behold the rising billows roll,
To overwhelm his holy soul.

---

25. Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. Matt. x. 42.

1. He has the beginning of reward in pleasurable emotions.—2. He has the continuance of reward in strengthened benevolence.—3. He has the perfection of reward in heavenly glories.

Though small the offerings that we make,
Yet thou hast taught us, Lord,
If given for the Saviour's sake,
They lose not their reward.

---

26. And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. Rev. xxii. 1.

1. Its origin.—2. Its purity.—3. Its efficacy.—4. Its copiousness.

See, from Zion's sacred mountain,
Streams of living water flow;
God has open'd there a fountain
That supplies the plains below.

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27. Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. i. 6.

1. In every true Christian God has begun a good work.—2. At its commencement, and at every subsequent period, previous to the day of Jesus Christ, that good work is incomplete.—3. There is valid ground of confidence, that he who has begun that good work will carry it forward to perfection.

The work which his goodness began,
  The arm of his strength will complete;
His promise is yea, and amen,
  And never was forfeited yet.

---

28. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isa. liii. 5.

1. The sufferings which our sins occasioned the Saviour.—2. The blessings which those sufferings procured for us.

My soul looks back to see
  The burdens thou didst bear,
When hanging on the cursed tree,
  And hopes her guilt was there.

---

29. Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. Eph. v. 2.

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1. For our sakes, Christ made great sacrifices.—2. For our sakes he suffered much.—3. His love to us, in these respects, is, in spirit, a pattern for our love to one another.

Be thou my pattern; make me bear
More of thy gracious image here;
Then God, the Judge, shall own my name
Among the followers of the Lamb.

30. We have thought of thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. Ps. xlviii. 9.

1. Thoughts of God's loving-kindness are profitable, as they check the spirit of repining under personal afflictions.—2. As they promote humility.—3. As they excite feelings of gratitude.—4. As they make sin appear exceedingly odious.—5. As they increase our confidence in God.

Bless, O my soul, the God of grace;
His favours claim thy highest praise;
Let not the wonders he hath wrought
Be lost in silence and forgot.

MAY.

1. Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts xv. 26.

1. Christianity requires great sacrifices.—2. Christianity is worthy of great sacrifices.

In the deserts let me labour;
On the mountains let me tell
How he died the blessed Saviour,
To redeem a world from hell:
Let me hasten,
Far in heathen lands to dwell.

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2. Behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. Gen. xxviii. 12.

1. An expressive emblem of Christ's mediation.—2. Christ connects heaven and earth.—3. Through Christ heaven and earth reciprocally communicate.

Thou art the way;—by thee alone
From sin and death we flee:
And he who would the Father seek,
Must seek him, Lord, through thee.

---

3. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon the earth that I desire beside thee. Ps. lxxiii. 25.

1. The believer prefers God to every thing else in heaven.—2. He prefers God to every thing else on earth.

Whom have I on earth below?
Thee, and only thee I know;
Whom have I in heaven but thee?
Thou art all in all to me.

---

4. Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. Lam. iii. 40.

1. Implies that we have once turned to the Lord.—2. Implies that we have departed from him.—3. It is important that we should return to him.—4. To do this we must search and try our ways.

Return, my roving heart, return,
And life's vain shadows chase no more;
Seek out some solitude to mourn,
And thy forsaken God implore.

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5. Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that, whereas they speak against you as evil-doers, they may, by your good works which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. 1 Pet. ii. 12.

1. One part of a Christian's treatment in the world.—2. The use which he should make of the evil.—3. The end to be kept in view.

Oh let this correction be blest,
And answer thy gracious design;
Then grant that my soul may find rest
In comforts so healing as thine.

---

6. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. John i. 46.

1. Men often have foolish prejudices against religion.—2. The most effectual mode of removing such prejudices, is, to induce men to examine for themselves.

Oh make but trial of his love,
Experience will decide
How blest are they, and only they,
Who in his truth confide.

---

7. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. Ps. cxix. 59.

1. Penitent reflection.—2. Pious reformation.

If once I wander from thy path,
I think upon my ways;
Then turn my feet to thy commands,
And trust thy pardoning grace.

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8. Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? Acts ix. 4.

1. Christ identifies himself with his people, and makes their interest his own.—2. To persecute them is to persecute him.—3. Then, how safe are they.—4. Then, how unwise to treat them ill.

Who shall divide us from us his love,
Or cause his mercy to remove?
Not all that men on earth can do,
Nor powers on high, nor powers below.

---

9. A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself. Prov. xxii. 3.

1. Evil is to be apprehended by the sinner.—2. There is a refuge in which the sinner may hide himself from this evil.—3. A prudent man will apprehend the danger, and repair to the refuge.

Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood
From thy side, a healing flood,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath, and make me pure.

---

10. No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke ix. 62.

1. Singleness of aim.—2. Intenseness of application.—3. Unfaltering perseverance.

Then to the work of God awake;
Behold thy Master near;
The various, arduous tasks pursue
With vigour and with fear.

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11. Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.
2 Cor. iv. 17.

1. Then should we patiently bear affliction.—2. Then is a religious life, with all its trials, preferable to a life of sin.

Light are the pains that nature brings;
How short our sorrows are,
When with eternal future things
The present we compare.

---

12. Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved?
Sol. Song, viii. 5.

1. Christ goes in search of his people.—2. The condition in which he finds them.—3. He brings them up with him.—4. They affectionately depend upon him.

Who is this fair one in distress,
Ascending from the wilderness?
Oppress'd with sorrows and with sins,
On her beloved Lord she leans.

---

13. The Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal. ii. 20.

1. The greatness of the sacrifice.—2. The motive that prompted it.—3. The particularity of the object.

Behold the Saviour of mankind
Upon the shameful tree;
How great the love that him inclined
To bleed and die for me!

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14. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John vi. 37.

1. All may be saved.—2. Some will be saved.—3, None are saved but by Christ.—4. None perish but by their own fault.

Say, will you hear his gracious voice,
And have your sins forgiven?
Or will you make that wretched choice,
And bar yourselves from heaven?

---

15. As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die? Ezek. xxxiii. 11.

1. An undeniable statement.—2. A reasonable command.—3. An unanswerable question.

Sinners, turn; why will ye die?
God, your Saviour, asks you why?
Will ye not in him believe?
He has died that ye might live.

---

16. After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven. Rev. iv. 1.

1. That we may look in, and be attracted by its glories,—2. That we may enter, and enjoy them.

Immortal wonders, boundless things
In open'd heaven appear!
Prepare me, Lord, to stretch my wings,
And in those glories share.

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17. And the door was shut.
Matt. xxv. 10.

1. To secure those that are within.—2. To exclude those that are without.

When the world has pass'd away,
When arrives the judgment-day,
When the awful trump shall sound,
Where, oh where, wilt thou be found?

---

18. Whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. Acts xvi. 14.

1. The human heart is naturally closed against the gospel.—2. If the heart is ever opened to the gospel, it is opened by Divine power.—3. Whenever the heart is thus opened, there is serious attention to the word.

Holy Spirit, Light Divine,
Open now this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away;
Turn the darkness into day.

---

19. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his own good pleasure. Phil. ii. 12, 13.

1. The Christian's duty.—2. The Christian's encouragement.

'Tis God that works to will;
'Tis he that works to do;
The power by which we act is his,
And his the glory too.

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20. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. John i. 11.

1. Christ has claims to a favourable reception.—2. These claims are ungratefully dishonoured.

Life he brings you by his death,
Peace he speaks with every breath;
Can you slight such heavenly charms?
Can you thrust him from your arms?

---

21. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Gal. vi. 7.

1. Sin reproduces sin.—2. Virtue reproduces virtue.—3. Each is its own appropriate reward.

The seeds which piety and love
Have scattered here below,
In fair and fertile fields above
To ample harvests grow.

---

22. Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the field shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Hab. iii. 17, 18.

1. It is well to anticipate possible evils.—2. Whatever calamities may befall the Christian, he will still have abundant occasion to rejoice in God.

God is the treasure of my soul,
The source of lasting joy,
A joy which want shall not impair,
Nor death itself destroy.

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23. Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Col. i. 28.

1. The end to be aimed at.—2. The means to be used.

'Tis not a cause of small import
The pastor's care demands,
But what might fill an angel's heart,
And fill'd a Saviour's hands.

---

24. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. Rom. v. 10.

1. An established fact, that Christ died for his enemies.—2. A rational inference, that he will save his friends.

If my immortal Saviour lives,
Then my immortal life is sure;
His word a firm foundation gives;
Here I may build, and rest secure.

---

25. All his saints are in thy hand.
Deut. xxxiii. 3.

1. In his moulding hand.—2. In his correcting hand.—3. In his guiding hand.—4. In his preserving hand.

Firm as the earth thy gospel stands,
My Lord, my hope, my trust;
If I am found in Jesus' hands,
My soul can ne'er be lost.

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26. He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.
James v. 20.

1. A field for Christian usefulness.—2. Encouragement to Christian effort.

Labourers of Christ, arise,
And gird you for the toil;
The dew of promise from the skies
Already cheers the soil.

---

27. Lovest thou me? John xxi. 17.

1. Love to Christ is necessary, that we may please him.—2. That we may endure trial for his sake.—3. That we may render him acceptable service.—4. That we may be happy in his presence.

Let me love thee more and more,
If I love at all, I pray;
If I have not loved before,
Help me to begin to-day.

---

28. In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. Zech. xiii. 1.

1. The radical evil of human nature.—2. The efficacious remedy.

Cleanse me in that sacred flood,
In that fountain of thy blood;
Then thy Father's eye shall see
Not a spot of guilt in me.

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29. One of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. John xix. 34.

1. Thus fulfilling prophecy.—2. Thus insuring his death.—3. Thus illustrating the double purpose of the atonement.

How gracious, how severe thou art,
Just God, in thy redeeming plan!
The spear that pierced Immanuel's heart
Reveal'd the fount of life for man.

---

30. A certain man had two sons, and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to-day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not; but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir; and went not.

Matt. xxi. 28—30.

1. Some do better than they promise.—2. Some promise better than they do.

A Father bids you work,
Oh, wherefore then delay?
A righteous service he demands;
He bids you work to day.

---

31. When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them.

Matt. ix. 36.

1. Christ's compassion was cordial.—2. It was intelligent.—3. It was disinterested.—4. It was practical.

Well might the heavens with wonder view
A love so strange as thine;
No thought of angels ever knew
Compassion so divine.

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JUNE.

1. Rooted and built up in him. Col. ii. 7.

1. For sustenance.—2. For stability.

There safe thou shalt abide,
  There sweet shall be thy rest,
And every longing satisfied,
  With full salvation blest.

---

2. Unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings. Mal. iv. 2.

1. Christ is the centre of spiritual attraction to a large system.—2. He is the source of spiritual illumination.—3. He is the fountain of vivifying energy.

Oh thou Sun of glorious splendour,
  Shine with healing in thy wing;
Chase away these shades of darkness;
  Holy light and comfort bring.

---

3. If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. Mark ix. 23.

1. Faith enables a man to do, unaided, what would otherwise be impracticable.—2. Faith insures Divine assistance and cooperation.

Faith works with power, but will not plead
  The best of works when done;
It knows no other ground of trust
  But in the Lord alone.

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4. The whole family in heaven and earth. Eph. iii. 15.

1. All the members resemble their Father.—2. They all resemble one another.—3. They are all heirs to one inheritance.—4. They will all dwell together in endless glory.

One family, we dwell in him;
One church above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death.

---

5. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. Rev. xxi. 4.

1. All tears of contrition.—2. All tears of affliction.—3. All tears of commiseration.

Joy shall banish all their sighs;
Perfect love dispel their fears;
And for ever from their eyes
God shall wipe away their tears.

---

6. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. Luke xxiii. 34.

1. An extraordinary petition.—2. Offered under extraordinary circumstances.—3. Urged by an extraordinary argument.

"Father, forgive," the Saviour cried,
With his expiring breath,
And drew eternal blessings down
On those who wrought his death.

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7. Unto you which believe he is precious. 1 Pet. ii. 7.

1. For what he is in himself.—2. For what he is relatively.

Yes, thou art precious to my soul,
My transport and my trust;
Jewels to thee are gaudy toys,
And gold is sordid dust.

---

8. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb. x. 31.

1. Because he is omniscient.—2. Because he is almighty.—3. Because he is infinitely holy.—4. Because he is eternal.

Oh may these thoughts possess my breast,
Where'er I rove, where'er I rest;
Search, Lord, and cleanse my inmost heart,
And light, and truth, and peace impart.

---

9. I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. Isa. xlviii. 17.

1. There is a way in which we should go.—2. God teaches us that it is for our profit to walk in that way.—3. By leading us in that way, he shows us that his teaching and his leading agree.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my Guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside.

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10. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Rom. viii. 32.

1. God has graciously made for our good the greatest possible sacrifice.—2. Having bestowed the greater blessing, will he withhold the less?

My soul, ask what thou wilt,
Thou canst not be too bold;
Since his own blood for thee was spilt,
What else can he withhold?

---

11. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Rev. iii. 20.

1. Christ seeks admission into our hearts.—2. It is for our interest to admit him.

Amazing sight! the Saviour stands
And knocks at every door!
Ten thousand blessings in his hands,
To satisfy the poor.

---

12. Thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. Ps. xxvii. 9.

1. Grateful recollection.—2. Importunate supplication.

Let not thy face be hid from me,
Nor frown my soul away;
God of my life, I fly to thee
In each distressing day.

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13. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Prov. iii. 6.

1. A reasonable requirement.—2. An encouraging promise.

To thee, oh my unerring guide,
I would myself resign,
In all my ways acknowledge thee,
And form my will by thine.

---

14. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil. iv. 13.

1. Christ strengthens his people.—2. In his strength they are adequate to any service of toil or conflict.

I can do all things, or can bear
All suffering, if my Lord be there;
Sweet pleasures mingle with the pains,
While he my sinking head sustains.

---

15. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory. Ps. lxxiii. 24.

1. A sense of entire dependence.—2. An expression of unshaken confidence.

Yes, I will firmly trust
That thou will guide me still,
And guard me safe through all the way
That leads to Zion's hill.

---

16. When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek. Ps. xxvii. 8.

1. A voice to the heart.—2. The heart's echo.

Soon as I heard my Father say,
"Ye children, seek my grace,"
My heart replied, without delay,
I'll seek my Father's face.

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17. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart. Ps. xxvii. 14.

1. The required service.—2. The needed spirit.—3. The all-sufficient encouragement.

Wait on the Lord, ye trembling saints,
And keep your courage up;
He'll raise your spirit when it faints,
And far exceed your hope.

---

18. God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Cor. x. 13.

1. God suffers his people to be tempted.—2. He sets limits to their temptations.—3. He provides for their deliverance from them.—4. In all this he exhibits his faithfulness.

Still nigh me, oh my Saviour, stand,
And guard in fierce temptation's hour;
Support by thine almighty hand;
Show forth in me thy saving power;
Still be thine arm my sure defence,
Nor earth nor hell shall pluck me thence.

---

19. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor. vii. 1.

1. God has given us a great variety of promises. 2. Confidence in the promises is favourable to the cultivation of holiness.

Oh teach us, as we trust, to grow
In holiness and love,
That we may long to see and know
Thy glorious face above.

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20. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Luke xi. 13.

1. An answerable argument.—2. An encouraging assurance.

If earthly parents hear
Their children when they cry;
If they, with love sincere,
Their varied wants supply
Much more wilt thou thy love display,
And answer when thy children pray.

---

21. That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more. Job xxxiv. 32.

1. The prayer of a docile mind.—2. The promise of a penitent heart.

Oh shine on this benighted heart,
With beams of mercy shine;
And let thy healing voice impart
A taste of joys divine.

---

22. I will go in unto the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish. Esther iv. 16.

1. A fearful uncertainty.—2. The only alternative.—3. Adventurous energy.

Perhaps he will admit my plea,
Perhaps will hear my prayer;
But, if I perish, I will pray,
And perish only there.

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23. God be merciful to me a sinner. Luke xviii. 13.

1. The petitioner, sensible of his guilt, necessity, and dependence.—2. The petition, addressed to the right source, in the right manner.

There is forgiveness, Lord, with thee;
Thy nature is benign;
Thy pardoning mercy I implore,
For mercy, Lord, is thine.

---

24. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. Isa. xl. 31.

1. As we advance in the divine life, we need constant accessions of strength.—2. This necessity is supplied through a diligent exercise of our faculties and affections in the service of God.

Mere human power shall fast decay,
And youthful vigour cease;
But they who wait upon the Lord
In strength shall still increase.

---

25. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James v. 16.

1. The character of the successful petitioner.—2. The character of the successful petition.

Behold the throne of grace!
The promise calls thee near;
There Jesus shows a smiling face,
And waits to answer prayer.

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26. Lead me in the way everlasting. Ps. cxxxix. 24.

1. There is a way everlasting.—2. We have need to be led in that way.—3. God alone can lead us.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
With every idol bid me part;
Conduct me, lest I go astray,
And lead me in thy perfect way.

---

27. He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. Mal. iii. 3.

1. His object is to remove all impurities from our souls.—2. He watches the process, to see that we receive no harm.—3. He discontinues the trial, when he sees his own image fully reflected by our clarified natures.

In the furnace Christ may prove thee,
Thence to bring thee forth more bright,
But can never cease to love thee;
Thou art precious in his sight:
Christ is with thee—
Christ, thine everlasting light.

---

28. Happy is the man whom God correcteth; therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty. Job v. 17.

1. Because it is deserved.—2. Because it is administered in love.—3. Because it is salutary in its effects.

If, to prevent his wandering steps,
He feels the chastening rod,
The gentle stroke shall bring him back
To his forgiving God.

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29. God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thes. v. 9.

1. What we deserve, we escape.—2. What we have forfeited, we obtain.

'Twas mercy fill'd the throne,
And wrath stood silent by,
When Christ was sent with pardons down
To rebels doom'd to die.

---

30. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Matt. v. 4.

1. The character that is commended.—2. The blessing that is promised.

Blest are the men of broken heart,
Who mourn for sin with inward smart;
The blood of Christ divinely flows,
A healing balm for all their woes.

JULY.

1. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.
Matt. xii. 20.

1. The truly humble and contrite are often very feeble.—2. With such the Saviour deals tenderly, strengthening slender faith, and rekindling nearly extinct piety, until grace gets the victory over corruption.

He'll never quench the smoking flax,
But raise it to a flame;
The bruised reed he never breaks,
Nor scorns the meanest name.

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2. Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. Matt. x. 32.

1. The duty required.—2. The reward promised.

But to those who have confess'd,
Loved and served the Lord below,
He will say, "Come near, ye blessed:
See the kingdom I bestow:
You for ever
Shall my love and glory know."

---

3. Whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Matt. x. 33.

1. The sin prohibited.—2. The punishment threatened.

Jesus, and shall it ever be,
A mortal man ashamed of thee?
Ashamed of thee, whom angels praise,
Whose glories shine through endless days?

---

4. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
1 John iv. 11.

1. If God so loved us as inferiors, we ought to love one another as equals.—2. If God so loved us as sinners, we ought to love one another as Christians.

Among the saints on earth
Let mutual love be found:
Heirs of the same inheritance,
With mutual blessings crown'd.

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5. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out. Rev. iii. 12.

1. We have many difficulties to overcome.—2. We have every possible encouragement to persevere.

There, join'd with all the shining band,
My soul would thee adore,
A pillar in thy temple stand,
To be removed no more.

---

6. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom.
Isa. xl. 11.

1. Spiritual provision, suitable, constant, and abundant.—2. Spiritual care, tender, assiduous, and enduring.

When faint and trembling with alarms,
Oh gather us within thine arms;
Kind Shepherd, on thy gracious breast
The weakest lamb may safely rest.

---

7. The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. Isa. lix. 1.

1. Then may we still confide in his ability.—2. Then may we persevere in prayer.

To all his praying saints
He ever will attend,
And to their sorrows and complaints
His ear in mercy bend.

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8. Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Luke xviii. 1.

1. Because they are always needy.—2. Because they are always dependent.—3. Because persevering prayer only is prevalent.

Pray, when the morning shineth,
  Pray, when the noon is bright,
Pray, when the eve declineth,
  Pray in the hush of night.

---

9. I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Mic. vii. 7.

1. The becoming posture of mind.—2. Authorized confidence.

Lord, thou hast built thy throne of grace,
  Dispensing pardons freely there,
That sinners may approach thy face,
  And hope and love, as well as fear.

---

10. Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? John iv. 29.

1. A commendatory fact.—2. A rational inference.—3. A benevolent invitation.

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
  Come in mercy's gracious hour;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
  Full of pity, love, and power:
    He is able,
  He is willing—doubt no more.

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11. How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. Ps. xxxvi. 7.

1. The admiration of faith.—2. The action of faith.

O God, how excellent thy grace,
Whence all our hope and comfort spring!
The sons of Adam, in distress,
Fly to the shadow of thy wing.

---

12. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.
Mal. iii. 7.

1. A reasonable requirement.—2. Gracious encouragement.

Return, my wandering soul, return,
And wipe away the falling tear;
'Tis God who says, "No longer mourn;"
'Tis mercy's voice invites thee near.

---

13. Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.
John xx. 25.

1. A presumptuous demand.—2. A cruel alternative.—3. A rash resolution.

Will ye not in him believe?
Will ye not his grace receive?
Will ye hear his truth in vain?
Crucify your Lord again?

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14. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
Matt. v. 16.

1. The end to be secured.—2. The power of a holy example to secure it.

So let our lips and lives express
The holy gospel we profess;
So let our works and virtues shine,
To prove the doctrine all divine.

---

15. With thee is the fountain of life.
Ps. xxxvi. 9.

1. A full fountain.—2. A free fountain.—3. An inexhaustible fountain.

Life, like a fountain rich and free,
Springs from the presence of the Lord,
And in thy light our souls shall see
The glories promised in thy word.

---

16. If we suffer, we shall also reign with him. 2 Tim. ii. 12.

1. By following Christ, we partake of his sufferings.—2. These sufferings are alleviated by the assured prospect of reigning with him.

Oh, gladly tread the narrow path,
While light and grace are given;
Who meekly follow Christ on earth
Shall reign with him in heaven.

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17. Lord, save us: we perish.
Matt. viii. 25.

1. Painful apprehension.—2. Importunate appeal.

Just in the last distressing hour,
The Lord displays delivering power;
The mount of danger is the place
Where we shall see surprising grace.

---

18. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. ii. 10.

1. The service enjoined.—2. The inducement offered.

Be faithful unto death,
Partake my victory;
And thou shalt wear a glorious wreath,
And thou shalt reign with me.

---

19. So run, that ye may obtain.
1 Cor. ix. 24.

1. With a right spirit.—2. In a right way.—3. According to a right rule.—4. Toward a right end.

Oh, faint not, Christian, for thy sighs
Are heard before the throne;
The race must come before the prize,
The cross before the crown.

---

20. Walk circumspectly. Eph. v. 15.

1. That you may walk safely.—2. That you may walk usefully.

The glowing lamp of truth will light
Thee on thy anxious road;
Will keep the heavenly goal in sight,
And guide thee to thy God.

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21. I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes.
Ezek. xxxvi. 27.

1. The efficient influence.—2. The practical result.

That heavenly influence let us find
In holy silence of the mind;
And let it dwell in every heart,
That we from God may ne'er depart.

---

22. Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. Heb. x. 36.

1. For wise reasons, God sometimes withholds, temporarily, his promised blessings.—2. They who do his will, and patiently wait his time, will ultimately receive them.

The truth of God shall still endure,
And firm his promise stand;
Believing souls may rest secure
In his almighty hand.

---

23. Into thine hand I commend my spirit. Ps. xxxi. 5.

1. None but God is able to keep it.—2. With none but God can it be safely trusted.

Firm as his throne his promise stands,
And he can well secure
What I've committed to his hands
Till the decisive hour.

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24. The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord. Ps. xxxvii. 39.

1. In its purpose.—2. In its execution.

High lifted on the cross,
The spotless Victim dies:
This is salvation's only source;
Hence all our hopes arise.

---

25. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? Isa. l. 8.

1. Faith's reliance.—2. Faith's challenge.

Faith has an overcoming power;
It triumphs in the dying hour;
He that has loved us bears us through,
And makes us more than conquerors too.

---

26. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Rom. v. 19.

1. A deplorable fact.—2. A cheering assurance.

By the rebellion of one man,
Through all his seed the mischief ran;
And by one Man's obedience, now,
Are all his seed made righteous too.

---

27. I will hear what God the Lord will speak. Ps. lxxxv. 8.

1. That I may know what to believe.—2. That I may know what to do.

Oh may thy counsels, mighty God,
My roving feet command;
Nor I forsake the happy road,
That leads to thy right hand.

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28. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. Isa. liv. 7.

1. When God withdraws from his people, it is only temporarily.—2. The restoration of his favour is distinguished by signal tokens of his kindness.

Fear not that he will quite forsake,
Or leave his work undone:
He's faithful to his promises,
And faithful to his Son.

---

29. Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. Ps. xxv. 1.

1. In devout adoration.—2. In grateful acknowledgment.—3. In penitent confession.—4. In humble petition.

Eternal Source of life and light,
Supremely good and wise,
To thee we bring our waiting souls,
To thee lift up our eyes.

---

30. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
Heb. xiii. 5.

1. A sin to be avoided.—2. A virtue to be practised.—3. A promise to be trusted.

How well thy blessed truths agree!
How wise and holy thy commands!
Thy promises how firm they be!
How firm our hope and comfort stands!

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31. I will sing of mercy and judgment. Ps. ci. 1.

1. The cup which God puts into our hands is ordinarily a mixture.—2. We have occasion to praise him for the one ingredient as much as the other.

Mercy and judgment are my song;
And since they both to thee belong,
My gracious God, my righteous King,
To thee my purest praise I 'll bring.

AUGUST.

1. I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. Gen. xxxii. 26.

1. Painful sense of necessity.—2. Full confidence in ability.—3. Resolute importunity.

Lord, I cannot let thee go,
Till a blessing thou bestow;
Do not turn away thy face,
Mine's an urgent, pressing case.

---

2. Take good heed unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God. Josh. xxiii. 11.

1. Because he is supremely worthy of our love.—2. Because love to him is the spring head of all sound morality.—3. Because love to him is indispensable to true happiness.

This is the grace that lives and sings
When faith and hope shall cease;
'Tis this shall strike our joyful strings
In brightest realms of bliss.

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3. God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Gal. vi. 14.

1. Because it occupies so important a position in the Divine government.—2. Because it developes so illustriously the Divine character.—3. Because of its extraordinary moral efficacy.

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

---

4. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. 1 Pet. i. 22.

1. The subject of sanctification—THE SOUL.—2. The instrument—THE TRUTH.—3. The means—OBEDIENCE TO THE TRUTH.—4. The agent—THE HOLY SPIRIT.—5. A result—BROTHERLY LOVE.

Saviour, I thy word believe,
My sinfulness remove;
Now thy cleansing Spirit give,
And fill my soul with love.

---

5. My grace is sufficient for thee.
2 Cor. xii. 9.

1. In every condition of life.—2. In every form of death.—3. In the severest scrutiny of the judgment.

Kind are the words that Jesus speaks
To cheer the drooping saint:
My grace sufficient is for you,
Though nature's powers may faint.

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6. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. 1 Cor. i. 30, 31.

1. We are entirely dependent upon God for salvation.—2. By this entireness of dependence, God is glorified.

Poor helpless worms in thee possess
Grace, wisdom, power, and righteousness;
Thou art our mighty All, and we
Give our whole selves, O Lord, to thee.

---

7. The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John i. 7.

1. The only remedy for a radical evil.—2. The extent of its efficacy.

Transgressors of the deepest stain
In him salvation find;
His blood removes the foulest guilt,
And purifies the mind.

---

8. Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. Acts. i. 8.

1. Power to understand and to explain the gospel.—2. Power to address the deep sympathies of the human mind.—3. Power to overcome great obstacles.—4. Power to endure severe sufferings.

Come, Holy Spirit, from above,
With thy celestial fire;
Come, and with flames of zeal and love
Our hearts and tongues inspire.

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9. Break up your fallow ground.
Hos. x. 12.

1. That you may effectually kill out whatsoever is noxious.—2. That you may successfully cultivate whatsoever is good and useful.—3. That you may profitably avail yourselves of gracious influences.

Turn, turn us, mighty God,
And mould our souls afresh;
Break, sovereign grace, these hearts of stone,
And give us hearts of flesh.

---

10. A man shall be as an hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest. Isa. xxxii. 2.

1. The sinner's danger.—2. The sinner's refuge.

Other refuge have I none;
Flies my helpless soul to thee;
Leave, ah, leave me not alone;
Still protect and shelter me.

---

11. My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you. Gal. iv. 19.

1. Tender affection for backslidden Christians.—2. Painful solicitude for their restoration.

What image does my spirit bear?
Is Jesus formed, and living there?
Say, do his lineaments Divine,
In thought, and word, and action shine?

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29. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children. Eph. v. 1.

1. A rational requirement.—2. A dignified service.

If in my Father's love
I share a filial part,
May I that bless'd relation prove,
And show a filial heart.

---

30. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Rom. xiv. 12.

1. Universal accountability.—2. Individual accountability.

Then shall all the nations meet
At Jehovah's judgment-seat,
And, unveiled before his eye,
All the works of man shall lie.

DECEMBER.

1. Hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. 1 John iii. 24.

1. A Spirit that leads us to believe all he has said.—2. A Spirit that prompts us to do all he has required.

Think what Spirit dwells within thee;
Think what Father's smiles are thine;
Think what Jesus did to win thee:
Child of heaven, canst thou repine?

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2. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God 1 John v. 13.

1. The word of God describes the character of those who have eternal life.—2. If our character correspond with that description, we may know that we have eternal life.

Assure my conscience of her part
In the Redeemer's blood;
And bear thy witness with my heart
That I am born of God.

---

3. Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John i. 29.

1. The character of the Victim.—2. The effect of his sacrifice.

In every state, and time, and place,
Nought plead but Jesus' blood;
However wretched be your case,
Behold the Lamb of God!

---

4. If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 1 Pet. iv. 16.

1. He suffers in a good cause.—2. He suffers in good company.—3. His sufferings are nothing to his discredit.—4. They furnish him with an opportunity to glorify God.

Bless'd are the sufferers who partake
Of pain and shame for Jesus' sake:
For they shall glorify their Lord,
And triumph in a rich reward.

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5. If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 1 Pet. iv. 18.

1. An admitted truth, that should make the Christian vigilant.—2. A rational inference, that should alarm the sinner.

When thy mortal life is fled,
When the death-shades o'er thee spread,
When is finished thy career,
Sinner, where wilt thou appear?

---

6. You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. ii. 1.

1. A deplorable condition.—2. A wonderful change,—3. The Author of that change.

Our quickened souls awake and rise
From their long sleep of death;
On heavenly things we fix our eyes,
And praise employs our breath.

---

7. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. 1 John iii. 14.

1. Christians, as such, are not loved by the unconverted.—2. He, therefore, who loves them, as such, may thence know that he is renewed by the grace of God.

My soul to Jesus joined
By faith and hope, and love,
Now seeks to dwell among the saints,
And rest with them above.

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8. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. 1 John ii. 15.

1. They are unworthy.—2. They are unsatisfying.—3. They are temporary.—4. They exclude the love of God.

Ye vain and flattering toys, begone;
Ye false delights adieu;
My glorious Lord fills all the space,
And leaves no room for you.

---

9. He that doeth truth, cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.
John iii. 21.

1. The character of a good man.—2. The character of a good work.—3. Such men and such works will bear the light.

His conscience knows no secret stings,
While peace and joy combine
To form a life whose holy springs
Are hidden and Divine.

---

10. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
John iii. 3.

1. Because he is unfit for the society of heaven.—2. Because he is unqualified for the employments of heaven.—3. Because he has none of the spirit of heaven.

Those holy gates for ever bar
Pollution sin and shame;
None shall obtain admittance there,
But followers of the Lamb.

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11. Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. Ps. lxxiii. 1.

1. Those who have clean hearts belong to the Israel of God.—2. To all such the God of Israel is, in a peculiar sense, good.—3. Confidence in this truth is of special service to the believer.

Bless'd are the pure, whose hearts are clean,
Who never tread the ways of sin;
With endless pleasure they shall prove
The depth of God's unchanging love.

---

12. The just shall live by faith. Gal. iii. 11.

1. God accounts believers in his Son as just.—2. Their faith is the medium of spiritual and eternal life.

Jesus, how glorious is thy grace!
When in thy name we trust,
Our faith receives a righteousness
That makes the sinner just.

---

13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us. Gal. iii. 13.

1. An extraordinary favour bestowed.—2. An extraordinary sacrifice to procure it.

Our sins and griefs on him were laid;
He meekly bore the mighty load;
Our ransom-price he fully paid
In groans and tears, in sweat and blood.

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14. Put on charity which is the bond of perfectness. Col. iii. 14.

1. A perfect bond of individual character.—2. A perfect social bond.

Happy the heart where graces reign,
  Where love inspires the breast:
Love is the brightest of the train,
  And strengthens all the rest.

---

15. Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. Col. iii. 13.

1. Gratuitously.—2. Cheerfully.—3. Completely.—4. Perpetually.

Jesus, thy pardoning love we sing,
  And whilst we sing, admire;
Breathe on our souls, and kindle there
  The same celestial fire.

---

16. He that judgeth me is the Lord. 1 Cor. iv. 4.

1. Then shall I be judged intelligently and impartially.—2. Then will many a human judgment be reversed.

Great God, what do I see and hear!
  The end of things created:
The Judge of man I see appear,
  On clouds of glory seated:
Before his cross I view the day
When heaven and earth shall pass away,
  And thus prepare to meet him.

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17. The Lord is a God of knowledge; by him actions are weighed. 1 Sam. ii. 3.

1. Then we cannot deceive him.—2. Then can he determine the value of actions.—3. Then let us act with reference to his estimates.

Search, O my God, my thoughts and heart,
If mischief lurks in any part;
Correct me, where I go astray,
And guide me in a perfect way.

---

18. I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
Phil. iv. 11.

1. A rare Christian attainment.—2. A state of mind essential to the highest enjoyment.

Fond ambition, whisper not;
Happy is my humble lot:
Anxious, busy cares, away:
I'm provided for to-day.

---

19. Study to be quiet, and to do your own business. 1 Thess. iv. 11.

1. As a preservative from evil.—2. As a means of enjoyment.—3. As a becoming example.

Remote from anger, noise and strife,
Submissive and resigned,
Oh let me lead a quiet life,
At peace with all mankind.

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20. And Abraham said unto God, Oh that Ishmael might live before thee!
Gen. xvii. 18.

1. Strength of parental desire.—2. Energy of parental prayer.

God of mercy, hear our prayer
For the children thou hast given;
Let them all thy blessings share,
Grace on earth, and bliss in heaven.

---

21. It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts xx. 35.

1. It is more excellent in itself.—2. It has a better effect upon the character.—3. It brings a richer reward.

Thus what our heavenly Father gave
Shall we as freely give;
Thus copy him who lived to save,
And died that we might live.

---

22. Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.
Eccl. xi. 1.

1. A service for faith to perform.—2. A promise for faith to trust.

How bless'd is he who fears the Lord,
And follows his commands,
Who lends the poor without reward,
Or gives with liberal hands.

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23. I will give unto every one of you according to your works. Rev. ii. 23.

1. The justice of God is retributive.—2. It is distributive.—3. It is equitable.

His holy law before him stands;
His justice, with impartial hands,
Divides to all their due reward,
Or by the sceptre, or the sword.

---

24. Thou shalt call his name Jesus. Matt. i. 21.

1. A Divinely appointed name.—2. A very expressive name.—3. A precious name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears;
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

---

25. Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke ii. 10, 11.

1. A joyous announcement.—2. A wonderful personage.—3. Extraordinary union of grandeur and humility.

Joyful all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

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26. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
Luke ii. 14.

1. The angels' doxology to God.—2. Their congratulations of men.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.

---

27. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
Luke ii. 12.

1. Extraordinary humiliation.—2. Unparalleled condescension.—3. Mysterious benevolence.

Cold, on his cradle, the dew drops are shining;
Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him, in slumber reclining,
Maker, and Monarch, and Saviour of all.

---

28. When he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.
Heb. x. 5.

1. Without a sacrifice of infinite value, sinners could not be saved.—2. The sacrifices of the Old Testament were inadequate to the purpose.—3. The body of Christ was given him that he might have an offering that should be satisfactory.

But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name,
And richer blood than they.

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29. We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ.

Heb. x. 10.

1. We cannot be saved without sanctification.—2. We are dependent for sanctification upon the expiatory offering of Christ.

Should my tears forever flow,
Should my zeal no languor know,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone:
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling.

---

30. And I beheld, and heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts [living ones] and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Rev. v. 11, 12.

1. The sentiment of heaven.—2. The spirit of heaven.—3. The employment of heaven.

Hark! how the choirs above,
Filled with the Saviour's love,
Dwell on his name!
There, too, may we be found,
With light and glory crowned,
While all the heavens resound,
"Worthy the Lamb."

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31. What is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. James iv. 14.

1. If life be thus brief, then let us diligently improve every moment.—2. If it be thus evanescent, let us not rely upon it.—3. If it is thus to terminate soon, and perhaps suddenly, then let us prepare for its termination, and for an introduction to a higher and more enduring life in heaven.

Lord, what is life?—if spent with thee,
  In humble praise and prayer,
How long or short our life may be,
  We feel no anxious care:
Though life depart, our joys shall last
When life and all its joys are past.

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THE BIBLE.

HAST thou ever heard
Of such a book? The author God himself;
The subject, God and man, salvation, life
And death—eternal life, eternal death:
Dread words! whose meaning has no end, no bounds.
Most wondrous book; bright candle of the Lord!
Star of eternity! the only star
By which the bark of man could navigate
The sea of life, and gain the coast of bliss
Securely! only star which rose on time,
And on its dark and troubled billows, still,
As generation, drifting swiftly by,
Succeeded generation, threw a ray
Of heaven's own light, and to the hills of God,
Th' eternal hills, pointed the sinner's eye.
This book, this holy book, on every line
Marked with the seal of high Divinity,
On every leaf bedewed with drops of love
Divine, and with th' eternal heraldry
And signature of God Almighty stamped
From first to last—this ray of sacred light,
This lamp from off the everlasting throne,

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Mercy took down, and in the night of time
Stood, casting on the dark her gracious bow,
And evermore beseeching men with tears
And earnest sighs, to hear, believe, and live.
And many to her voice gave ear, and read,
Believed, obeyed; and now, as the Amen,
True, faithful Witness swore, with snowy robes
And branchy palms surround the fount of life,
And drink the streams of immortality,
Forever happy, and forever young.

"Within this awful volume lies
The mystery of mysteries.
Oh! happiest they of human race
To whom our God has given grace
To hear, to read, to fear, to pray,
To lift the latch, and force the way:
But better had they ne'er been born,
Who read to doubt, or read to scorn."

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